Jennie Lee Anderson (SBN 203586) Adam J. Levitt (pro hac vice) 1 DICELLO LEVITT GUTZLER LLC Lori E. Andrus (SBN 205816) ANDRUS ANDERSON LLP Ten North Dearborn Street, Sixth Floor 2 155 Montgomery Street, Suite 900 Chicago, Illinois 60602 Telephone: 312-214-7900 3 San Francisco, California 94104 alevitt@dicellolevitt.com Telephone: 415-986-1400 4 jennie@andrusanderson.com lori@andrusanderson.com W. Daniel "Dee" Miles, III (pro hac vice) 5 BEASLEY, ALLEN, CROW, METHVIN, PORTIS & MILES, P.C. 6 272 Commerce Street 7 Montgomery, Alabama 36104 Telephone: 334-269-2343 8 Dee.Miles@beasleyallen.com 9 Counsel for Plaintiffs and the Proposed Classes (additional counsel appear on signature page) 10 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA 11 SAN FRANCISCO DIVISION 12 RAUL SIQUEIROS, TODD AND JILL CRALLEY, Case No.: 16-cv-07244-EMC LARRY GOODWIN, MARC PERKINS, THOMAS 13 SHORTER, GABRIEL DEL VALLE, KEVIN PLAINTIFFS' RESPONSE TO GENERAL 14 HANNEKEN, EDWIN AND KATELYN DOEPEL, MOTORS LLC'S MOTION TO DISMISS JAMES FAULKNER, JOSEPH OLIVIER, SCOTT **COUNT ONE (MAGNUSON MOSS** 15 SMITH, ROSS DAHL, DREW PETERSON, WARRANTY ACT) STEVE KITCHEN, BARBARA MOLINA, 16 WILLIAM DAVIS, JR., MIKE WARPINSKI, Judge: Hon. Edward J. Chen Hearing Date: September 3, 2020 JOHN GRAZIANO, JOSHUA BYRGE, RUDY 17 Time of Hearing: 2:30 p.m. SANCHEZ, CHRISTOPHER THACKER, JAMES 18 ROBERTSON, and JONAS BEDNAREK, individually and on behalf of all others similarly 19 situated, 20 Plaintiffs, 21 v. 22 GENERAL MOTORS LLC, 23 24 Defendant. 25 26 27 28

PLAINTIFFS' RESPONSE TO GM'S MOTION TO DISMISS COUNT ONE

Case No. 16-cv-07244-EMC

Plaintiffs hereby respond to and oppose Defendant General Motors LLC's ("GM") Motion to Dismiss Count One (ECF No. 255). GM seeks dismissal of Plaintiffs' Magnuson-Moss Warranty Act ("MMWA") claims because, GM contends, that MMWA claims are not viable with less than 100 named plaintiffs. However, GM ignores the fact Plaintiffs may still proceed with their MMWA claims individually. For the reasons set forth below, Plaintiffs request that the Court deny GM's Motion and, instead, strike Count One's class allegations without prejudice and with leave to amend and replead the class allegations should the requisite number of plaintiffs assemble.

LEGAL STANDARD

In ruling on a motion to dismiss, a court must "accept the plaintiff's allegations as true and view them in the light most favorable to her." *Soo Park v. Thompson*, 851 F.3d 910, 918 (9th Cir. 2017).

ARGUMENT

On July 28, 2020, the Ninth Circuit held, for the first time, that the Class Action Fairness Act ("CAFA") "may not be used to evade or override" the MMWA jurisdictional requirements for class actions. *Floyd v. Am. Honda Motor Co.*, No. 18-55957, 2020 WL 4331769, at *6 (9th Cir. July 28, 2020) ("CAFA may not be used to evade or override the MMWA's specific numerosity requirement . . ."). Plaintiffs concede Count One cannot be maintained on a class basis following *Floyd*, since there are currently less than 100 named plaintiffs. But dismissal is not appropriate because Plaintiffs still have viable individual MMWA claims.

"MMWA claims survive or fail with the Court's decisions regarding the implied warranty claims" (ECF No. 237 at 57). This Court already determined a reasonable jury could find that GM breached its implied warranty of merchantability, and therefore also violated the MMWA. (*Id.* at 49-57). Moreover, for this Court to assert jurisdiction over an individual claim under the MMWA, the amount in controversy need only be \$25. 15 U.S.C. § 2310(d)(3)(A). As this Court has recognized, Plaintiffs have put forth a cost of repair damages model that calculates damages at \$2,700 per plaintiff. (ECF No. 237 at 82-85). Therefore, the Court has jurisdiction over Plaintiffs' individual MMWA claims. Count One should not be dismissed, but, in light of *Floyd*, Plaintiffs concede that it is appropriate to strike Count One's class allegations without prejudice and with leave to amend and replead the class allegations should the requisite number of plaintiffs assemble.

1 **CONCLUSION** 2 For the foregoing reasons, Plaintiffs request that the Court deny GM's Motion. 3 Dated: August 13, 2020 /s/ Adam J. Levitt 4 Adam J. Levitt (pro hac vice) John E. Tangren (pro hac vice) 5 Daniel R. Ferri (pro hac vice) DICELLO LEVITT GUTZLER LLC 6 Ten North Dearborn Street, Sixth Floor Chicago, Illinois 60602 7 Telephone: 312-214-7900 alevitt@dicellolevitt.com 8 itangren@dicellolevitt.com dferri@dicellolevitt.com 9 W. Daniel "Dee" Miles, III (pro hac vice) 10 H. Clay Barnett, III (pro hac vice) J. Mitch Williams (pro hac vice) 11 BEASLEY, ALLEN, CROW, **METHVIN, PORTIS & MILES, P.C.** 12 272 Commerce Street Montgomery, Alabama 36104 13 Telephone: 334-269-2343 Dee.Miles@beasleyallen.com 14 Clay.Barnett@beasleyallen.com Mitch.Williams@beasleyallen.com 15 Jennie Lee Anderson (SBN 203586) 16 Lori E. Andrus (SBN 205816) ANDRUS ANDERSON LLP 17 155 Montgomery Street, Suite 900 San Francisco, California 94104 18 Telephone: 415-986-1400 jennie@andrusanderson.com 19 lori@andrusanderson.com 20 Christopher L. Coffin (pro hac vice) PENDLEY, BAUDIN & COFFIN, L.L.P. 21 1515 Poydras Street, Suite 1400 New Orleans, Louisiana 70112 22 Telephone: 504-355-0086 nrockforte@pbclawfirm.com 23 ccoffin@pbclawfirm.com 24 Marcus Rael (pro hac vice) ROBLES, RAEL & ANAYA, P.C. 25 500 Marquette NW, Suite 700 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87102 26 Telephone: 505-242-2228 marcus@roblesrael.com 27 28

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ECF CERTIFICATION Pursuant to Civil L.R. 5-1(i)(3), the filing attorney attests that he has obtained concurrence regarding the filing of this document from the signatories to the document. Date: August 13, 2020 By: /s/ <u>H. Clay Barnett, III</u> H. Clay Barnett, III